



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Spring Lasieur Acosta, DOB: 3/27/81, of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, was sentenced today in United States District Court in Madison to 21 years, 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Acosta, a former member of the Latin King Nation on the LCO Reservation, previously pleaded guilty to conspiring with other members of the Latin King Nation to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on or around the Reservation. Ms. Acosta joined the Latin King gang in the late 1990s and married gang member Gregorio Acosta, Jr. in 2000. From January 1999 through December 1999, Ms. Acosta made three to four round trips per week from Hayward to Milwaukee; on each trip she transported several ounces of cocaine back to Hayward. She was paid by co-conspirators Gregorio Acosta, Jr. and Ernesto Estrada for transporting the drugs. From 2000 to late August 2003, she and other co-conspirators sold cocaine and crack cocaine from her house on the LCO Reservation.

Ms. Acosta is the thirty-third person sentenced as a result of this long-term investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin

Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. Ten other gang members are scheduled for a jury trial in federal court before Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb beginning on December 5, 2005. Prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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